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Product Description

Optra Forms Director enables script-based, customizable processing of batch print jobs. A batch process is run on a host and the resultant print output, a spool file, is sent to a Windows print queue. The queue is pre-configured to automatically send the spool file to the Optra Forms Director program through a designated Print Pipe. The Optra Forms Director program then runs a script against the data in the spool file creating the desired output at the Lexmark printer, OptraImage or Lexmark multifunction printer.

Typical actions performed using a script are to split a batch spool file into individual print jobs, set the number of copies or set actions such as stapling, hole punching or offset stacking (also called jogging) for each print job. Most actions are accomplished by inserting data into a spool file at single-page or multiple-page job boundaries. This data can be:

- PJI commands for specific functions such as a command to control fax, Confidential Print, staple or punch functions
- New pages like a fax cover pages or separator pages

Other typical actions involve inserting data within an individual print job. This data can be:

- Date and time strings
- Page numbers
- Included as a bar code for indexing by job name or subject

Optra Forms Director also supports the ability to sort the individual print jobs in a spool file such as bulk mail sorting by zip code.

Each Windows print queue used with Optra Forms Director has a unique script associated with it that defines the functions to be executed for the print jobs directed to that queue. For example, there can be a queue with a Print Pipe named Faxpipe using a script that sends the output to the OptraImage fax.

The script examines the data in the original spool file to determine the proper place to insert PJI commands or data into the batch spool file. For example, commands could be inserted before every "Page 1" or every time a client name changes. The output from the script, the original spool file with inserted PJI commands, is sent to the configured destination, currently, a Lexmark printer, OptraImage or Lexmark multifunction printer.

Optra Forms Director software lets you select the destinations for these print jobs. You can send a job directly to a Lexmark printer, OptraImage or Lexmark multifunction printer through a TCP/IP connection, to another local print queue on Windows NT 4, Windows XP or Windows 2000, or to another host system via LPR. Multiple destinations for fax, print or to make multiple copies can be created to perform different functions for individual jobs created from a single spool file. These destinations can also be grouped to send the same output to more than one destination.

Once the Optra Forms Director scripts are written using Microsoft Windows's VBScript or JScript and the server Print Pipe is configured, script-associated batch print jobs initiated by the host are directed automatically through the process without intervention at the printer.

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